

# **MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD**

## **Media Release**

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## **Motor pool keeps MND-B operations rolling along**

By Spc. Jake Judge  
363rd MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – For Soldier-mechanics working here, being outside in the blistering heat and having basically one job after the other, day in and day out, is just part of the normal routine.

Since the Pad 17 motor pool began operations Jan. 11, the Soldier-mechanics have completed more than 500 jobs. Staff Sgt. Derek Estes, light-wheeled vehicle mechanic and motor sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division at the motor pool on Pad 17, is especially proud of the accomplishments of his fellow mechanics.

“I have a great bunch of mechanics, they love their job. They would rather be in the shop working on trucks than (anywhere),” said Estes.

The jobs have involved a wide variety of both scheduled and unscheduled vehicle maintenance services, said Estes, which is an especially impressive record when taking

into consideration the fact that the majority of the mechanics are tasked out on a regular basis to handle various additional duties.

At the Pad 17 motor pool, both the mechanics' dedication to duty as well as their considerable work-load is evident. Every day, the graveled lot is filled with trucks and equipment being serviced or awaiting service, by one of the hard-working mechanics in dirty oil-stained coveralls.

"On a weekly basis we probably see 90 to 100 trucks for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance services," said Estes.

Unscheduled maintenance services occur when a truck goes down unexpectedly and needs to be repaired right away – but for this motor pool, unscheduled repairs are not a problem, said Sgt. Shane Choate, utilities equipment repair specialist.

"Even if it takes a while for us to fix the problem, we make sure that the problem is fixed (right) so that Soldiers can complete their mission," said Choate.

Scheduled maintenance services consist of routine weekly dispatches and check-ups and, like everything else in the Army, these services must be recorded and tracked, said Estes.

Two Soldiers who help accomplish tracking are prescribed load list clerks Spc. Demond Brinson and Spc. Paul Sowu. "We track all Class 9 (repair) parts, also the maintenance and services of all the vehicles and equipment in the Pad 17 motor pool," said Sowu.

"What happens in this office contributes to keeping these trucks up and running," added Brinson.

Not only does the motor pool work on all the vehicles and equipment for the Special Troops Battalion's Company D, the Band and the Division Troops Company, but they also work on the vehicles for the U.S. Military Transition Teams and their Iraqi counterparts.

Sgt. Major Falah Hassan Hassoun, who is part of the personal security detail for the Commanding General of the 6th Iraqi Army Division, said, "We used to work with the Marines in the cities of Ramadi and Mosul. We are now working with the Army in and around Baghdad, and (both) us and our equipment are always taken care of."

Pad 17's twin team at the Pad 10 motor pool, located behind the STB, has a total of 17 personnel, including light-wheeled vehicle mechanics, air-conditioning mechanics and generator mechanics.

The Pad 10 motor pool's main responsibility is servicing all of the generators that run systems essential to the operation of the division – which includes everything from signal and radars to a hub in Qatar. They are also responsible for maintaining the operation of the Company A, STB, Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the Central Technician Support Facility. This motor pool also helps service members that come into theater with M1114 training and validation.

If you have a vehicle and you are a Soldier in the STB, you should never have to worry about something not getting repaired, said Chief Warrant Officer-2 Elizabeth Ellingson, battalion maintenance technician for both motor pools.

Ellingson and the battalion maintenance sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres-Baez, keep the two motor pools fully operational and ensure that all tasks are completed

in a timely manner. Coordinating these duties “keeps us (both) extremely busy,” said Torres-Baez.

The mechanics on Pad 17 have learned to work together to get the substantial amount of work that comes in to them accomplished, Estes said. “When we first opened up, I had only worked with three of the mechanics. We were given nine additional mechanics. These new Soldiers have learned a lot since they have been working here.” The new mechanics had to learn a lot quickly, noted Estes, since the PAD 17 shop is one of only a handful of motor pools that does organizational and direct support maintenance.

Organizational services are all scheduled services, such as your weekly dispatch, while direct support maintenance involves changing of major assemblies such as engine differentials, transmissions and transfers. Estes added that the mechanics “are being trained to trouble-shoot and replace major assemblies. It is very rare to have a motor pool that does (both) organizational and direct support maintenance.”

In the motor pool, each Soldier’s job is just as important as the next and they must work as a team in order to keep the wheels rolling on Camp Liberty, said Brinson. “I enjoy the people I work with ... the people you work with make your job the worst job, or they can make your job the best job,” he said.



### **Motor pool.**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Spc. Demond Brinson and Spc. Paul Sowu, prescribed load-list clerks, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, monitor and track all class 9 repair parts and maintenance services for the STB motor pool May 1 on Pad 17. The motor pool has handled more than 500 maintenance and repair services for 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers since Jan. 11.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jake Judge, 363rd MPAD)



**Under the wheel.**

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Sgt. Shane E. Choate, utilities equipment repair specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, fixes a brake light switch during the weekly dispatch on May 24 for an M1114 up-armored humvee. Weekly dispatches like this one help to identify deficiencies so that vehicles can continue their day to day operations.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jake Judge, 363rd MPAD)